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Shoot to kill protesters, Kazakh prez tells troops

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Friday authorised security forces to shoot to kill those participating in the unrest. Dramatically escalating the efforts to stamp out violent anti-government protests, the President warned that forces have been ordered to "fire without warning". "Those who don't surrender will be eliminated," Tokayev said in a televised address to the nation, referring to those involved in the turmoil as "terrorists," "bandits" and "militants" | P19

Growth to be tad slower in FY22 than projected

Advance estimates suggest the economy will grow at 9.2% against RBI's 9.5% forecast

SUNITHA NATTI

THE first advance estimates of the national income, released on Friday, show the country's GDP growing at 9.2% in FY22 against a contraction on 7.3% in FY21. The projected growth rate is lower than RBI's estimate of 9.5% and the government's own earlier indications of achieving 10-11% growth.

Real GDP or GDP at constant prices in FY22 is expected at ₹147.54 lakh crore, against the provisional estimate of GDP for FY21 at ₹135.13 lakh crore. Nominal GDP, considered an approximate indicator of aggregate demand, is estimated at ₹232.15 lakh crore in FY22 translating to an enviable 17.6% growth over FY21. Gross value added at basic prices is likely to grow at 8.6% in FY22 compared to a 6.2% contraction in FY21.

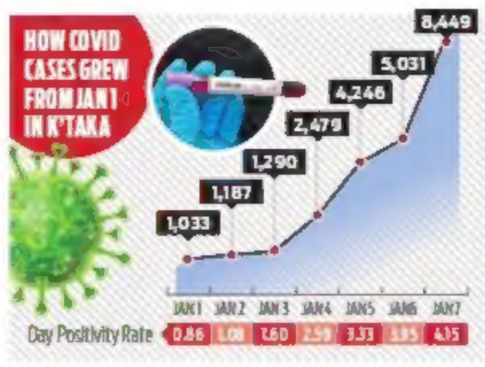
Fiscal 2021-21's estimated national output may whistle past the graveyard, regaining and even surpassing the pre-pandemic level of ₹145 lakh crore seen in FY20. While the services sector is putting on a fight, it is on the borderline of FY20 level, but with both agriculture and industry likely breaching the pre-pandemic perimeter, GDP growth appears to be decidedly moving north of 7-8% in FY23. According to the Central Statistics Office, agriculture is expected to grow at 3.9% in FY22 from 3.6% in FY21, while manufacturing and trade, and hotel sector are likely to expand at 12.5% and 11.9%, respectively this fiscal against a decline seen last fiscal.

CONTINUED ON: P12

₹197.5 lakh crore
Nominal GDP at the end of FY21

₹232 lakh crore
Nominal GDP at the end of FY22

₹1,68,340
Per capita gross national income at the end of FY22



Ashoka positive, CM tested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE sudden surge in Covid19 cases in the state, especially in Bengaluru, and Revenue Minister R Ashoka testing positive created a flutter in the state government, including the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Ashoka on Friday tweeted, "I have tested Covid positive. I am healthy and request those who came in contact with me to get themselves tested."

Sources said soon after Ashoka's test results returned positive on Thursday, he rushed to a private hospital in the city for a check-up. He later isolated himself at his residence. Though he did not attend the Cabinet meeting on Thursday that was chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, he took part in official programmes and a meeting at the BJP office on Wednesday. Sources said, "The CM and the entire staff at the CMO were subjected to RAT and RT-PCR tests and the reports were negative." P7

Covid -ve report must for rail, bus travellers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IT is not just airports, the Karnataka government will now conduct surveillance of inter-state travellers arriving at bus stands and railway stations, too, where passengers will have to produce negative RT-PCR reports. Interstate border checking is also set to become more stringent.

This was among several decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar, and attended by senior officials of Health department, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) and state Covid Technical Advisory Committee, on Friday.

Bringing back the isolation measures used during the previous two pandemic waves, Sudhakar said that once a person tests positive, the command centre will call them, do tele-triaging and guide them for isolation or hospitalisation. Around 10,000 house surgeons will be part of the tele-counselling and tele-triaging, which will become important towards January-end when the state expects hospitals to get overwhelmed.

"Though the Central government policy is to only test symptomatic contacts of Covid patients, Karnataka has gone a step further and decided to test all primary contacts. We are mulling over introducing a green pass or universal vaccine pass for people to enter public places, such as metro, bus, malls, theatres, markets, restaurants, etc," he said.

Karnataka has achieved 99 per cent coverage of the first Covid dose and 80 per cent of the second dose, ranking third in the country. P5

EXPRESS READ

87 new industries to create 12,000 jobs

Bengaluru: The Industries Department cleared 87 industrial projects worth ₹4,236.26 crore that would generate 12,251 jobs in the state. Thirteen large and medium-size industrial projects will invest ₹2,986.80 crore, generating jobs for 4,660 people. Another 74 projects will put in ₹1249.46 crore in total and employ 7,591 people. | P4

Actor Sidney Poitier passes away at 94

New York: Sidney Poitier,94, the groundbreaking actor and enduring inspiration who transformed how Black people were portrayed on screen, became the first Black actor to win an Academy Award for best lead performance and the first to be a top box-office draw, has died. Poitier, winner of the best actor Oscar in 1964 for 'Lilies of the Field.' | P19

SC green light to NEET OBC reservation, amber to EWS

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday gave its green light to NEET-UG and NEET-PG counselling for 2021-22 admissions while upholding the validity of the notification to allow 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the all India quota seats in state-run government medical institutions.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud also permitted 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), with a ₹8 lakh annual income as the threshold for this academic year.

But for future admissions, the court will hear petitions challenging the EWS criteria in the third week of March.

The bench said submissions by all parties necessitate a detailed interim order on the applicability of the EWS criteria. "The formulation of the reasons in the interim order on the EWS reservation would take some time. The validity of the OBC reservation in the AIQ seats in NEET-PG and NEET-UG is upheld for reasons to follow," the bench added.

Counselling had to be suspended from November 25 after the Centre informed the court about its decision to revisit the criteria for determining the EWS. The Centre had sought four weeks for a review committee to file its report. Its submission followed the bench's posers on the logic and study before deciding on the income cap.

A three-member review committee led by Ajay Bhushan Pandey, former finance secretary, submitted its report on December 31, supporting the ₹8 lakh annual income limit as a reasonable. By during the hearing on Thursday, Justice Chandrachud observed that the Pandey panel was trying to justify the EWS criteria post facto. "It appears what the committee has sought to do is offer a justification for the ₹8 lakh criterion. They have tried to justify the cut-off post facto."

MEDICAL STUDENTS HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF

A federation of resident doctors that had protested the delay in NEET-PG counselling in Delhi, heaved a sigh of relief and hailed the SC order, calling it a historic day. The agitation was led by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association

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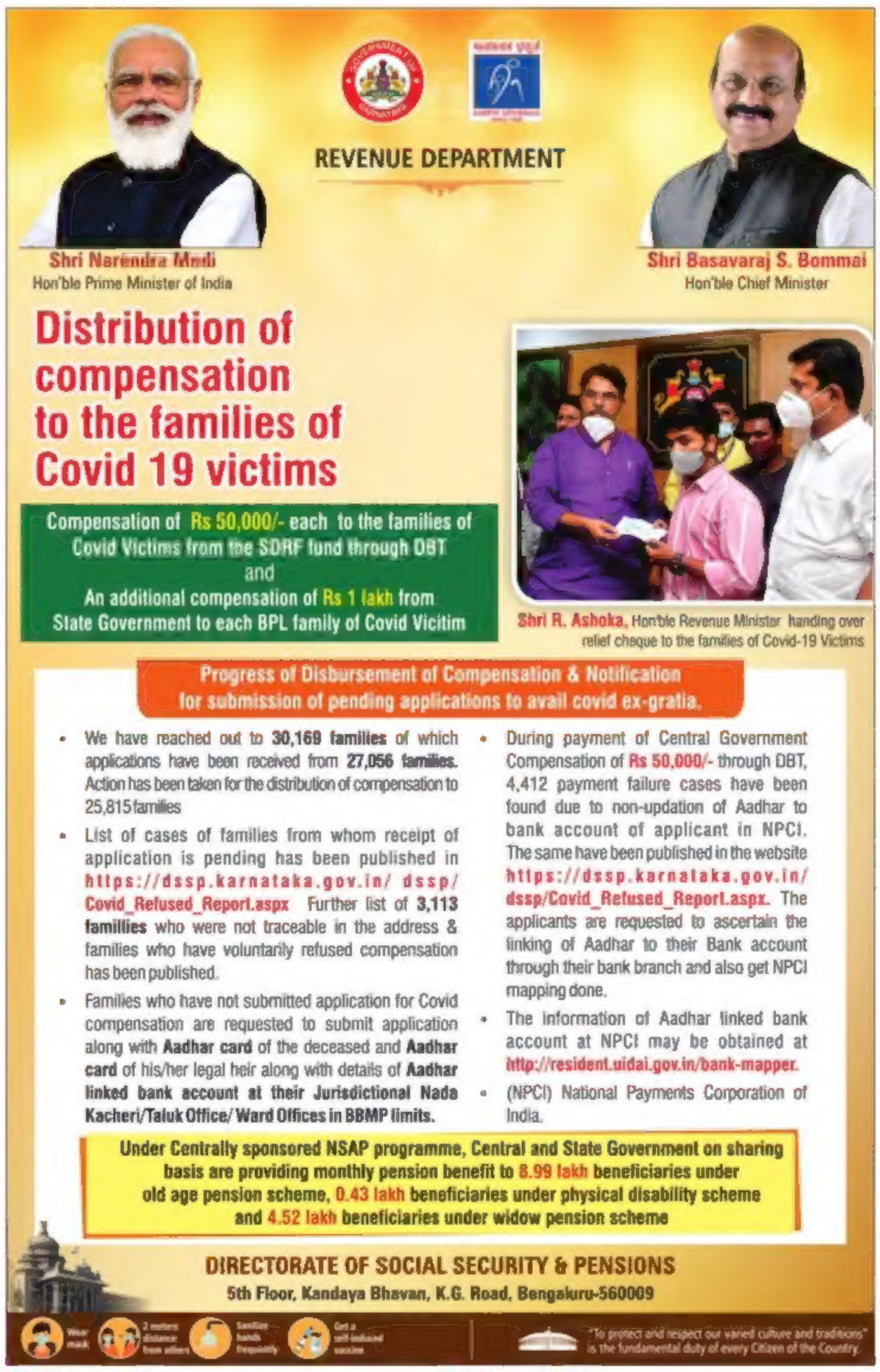

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Distribution of compensation to the families of Covid 19 victims

Compensation of Rs 50,000/- each to the families of Covid Victims from the SDRF fund through DBT
and
An additional compensation of Rs 1 lakh from State Government to each BPL family of Covid Vicitim

Shri R. Ashoka, Hon'ble Revenue Minister handing over relief cheque to the families of Covid-19 Victims

Progress of Disbursement of Compensation & Notification for submission of pending applications to avail covid ex-gratia.

- We have reached out to 30,169 families of which applications have been received from 27,056 families. Action has been taken for the distribution of compensation to 25,815 families
- List of cases of families from whom receipt of application is pending has been published in https://dssp.karnataka.gov.in/ dssp/Covid_Refused_Report.aspx Further list of 3,113 famillies who were not traceable in the address & families who have voluntarily refused compensation has been published.
- Families who have not submitted application for Covid compensation are requested to submit application along with Aadhar card of the deceased and Aadhar card of his/her legal heir along with details of Aadhar linked bank account at their Jurisdictional Nada Kacheri/Taluk Office/ Ward Offices in BBMP limits.
- During payment of Central Government Compensation of Rs 50,000/- through DBT, 4,412 payment failure cases have been found due to non-updation of Aadhar to bank account of applicant in NPCI. The same have been published in the website https://dssp.karnataka.gov.in/dssp/Covid_Refused_Report.aspx. The applicants are requested to ascertain the linking of Aadhar to their Bank account through their bank branch and also get NPCI mapping done.
- The information of Aadhar linked bank account at NPCI may be obtained at http://resident.uidai.gov.in/bank-mapper.
- (NPCI) National Payments Corporation of India.

Under Centrally sponsored NSAP programme, Central and State Government on sharing basis are providing monthly pension benefit to 8.99 lakh beneficiaries under old age pension scheme, 0.43 lakh beneficiaries under physical disability scheme and 4.52 lakh beneficiaries under widow pension scheme

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"To protect and respect our varied culture and traditions" is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country.